



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Preliminary majority prices were unchanged to slightly lower in the Northeast; unchanged elsewhere. Trade sentiment was no better than steady. Demand was seasonally light with limited trading, best for fast food, catering sales and other traditional holiday items. Supplies of all sizes were fully sufficient for current trade needs. In the parts structure, movement was light. All items were mixed in availability, but were at least adequate to available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate with weights in a full range but mostly desirable.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 12/22/03-12/26/03 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	56.00-59.00	56.00-66.00	58.42	24
Los Angeles	74.00			
New York	59.00-62.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	68.00-69.50	55.00-70.00	68.49	73

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 69.00 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
738	64.17-72.50	68.83
Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:		
	WTD. AVG.	VOLUME
ITEM	(CENTS PER POUND)	(000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	203.00	1,179
BREASTS - B/S	170.50	4,616
BREASTS - WHOLE	89.50	1,199
THIGH MEAT - B/S	93.00	851
LEG QUARTERS	30.50	6,537
WINGS	103.50	2,525

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary broiler prices into Chicago for next week's delivery were unchanged from Monday's final. Whole broiler/fryer trade sentiment was generally steady. Offerings were adequate to cover current needs. Demand remained mostly light for retail outlets with fairly good trade into food service channels. Catering and fast food noted as good in most areas. Floor stocks were balanced to instances long. Weights desirable to light. Interest on parts items was very spotty on mixed offerings. Supplies of boneless/skinless breasts were available, wings were spotty, and dark meat cuts adequate to close. The market tone was generally steady on all cuts with a barely steady to weak undertone on bone in and boneless/skinless breasts.

SOUTHERN BROILER Trade sentiment was generally no better than steady. Retail demand entering the weekend was seasonally light with limited trading as dealers look to other traditional holiday items. Supplies of all sizes were fully sufficient for current trade needs. In the parts structure, movement was light to no better than fair. All items were adequate to available for the light and unaggressive buyer interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The preliminary majority prices for next week unchanged from last Friday. The market tone was mainly steady with prices generally unchanged for next weeks' deliveries. Offerings remained adequate overall for the limited buyer interest. Retailer demand was light to moderate for whole body and moderate to fairly good for parts; best to fast food and where features in progress. Dealers anticipated moderate weekend carryovers.

Ads noted (per pound unless otherwise stated):

Arizona – cornish hen 169, boneless breast 349, boneless breast 2.5# bag IQF 699-799, boneless breast 3# bag IQF 699-999,

(deli food service – fried 12 piece mixed 699);

Colorado – roasters 99, Cornish hens 169, boneless breast 199-399;

Northern California – whole legs 119;

Southern California – whole body 58-79, whole seasoned 99, Cornish hen 12 count case 1899, roaster 98-119, boneless breast 189-198, split breast 119-127, boneless leg meat 99-129, thighs 89-99, drumsticks 89-99, drumsticks 5# bag 295, leg quarters 8# bag 384, leg quarters 10# bag 350-490, ground chicken 269, gizzards 77-149,

(deli food service – fried 8 piece mixed 399, whole rotisserie chicken each 398-478).

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers increased slightly entering the weekend, but was mostly fair to no better than moderate overall. Offerings of all sizes were at least adequate for the seasonally lackluster interest. Movement through retail and distributive channels was only fair at best. The market tone was no better than steady. In the parts complex, breast items remained available. Dark meat cuts were at least sufficient and wings continued to clear satisfactorily.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally light to fair. Offerings were adequate and generally well balanced to instances short. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable. Processor schedules were moderate to light. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 61 to 71 cents. Trade sentiment was steady. In the parts complex, breast items were adequate to ample with bone-in breasts often noted as difficult to clear. Leg cuts were fully adequate to closely cleared. Wings were generally adequate.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA. **BRANDED U.S. GRADE A**

RANGE	57-72
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	63.14
NO. OF BOXES	6,889
CUMULATIVE	12/15/03-12/19/03 63.66
	12/16/02-12/20/02 54.67
NO. OF BOXES	12/15/03-12/19/03 41,467
	12/16/02-12/20/02 36,253

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

December 18

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

December 19

	POUNDS				WTD	POUNDS				WEEKLY		
ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG		(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	WTD AVG	
BREAST - B/S	882	132.00-223.00	132-135	135.01		807	132.00-223.00	135-137	135.75	4,105	135.64	
TENDERLOINS	159	140.00-216.00	140-147	152.62		228	140.00-216.00	140-147	151.11	984	156.63	
BREAST - LINE RUN	83	79.00-93.00	79-83	82.00		88	79.00-93.00	82-84	82.68	450	82.56	
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT					TOO FEW TO REPORT					305	78.80
LEGS	96	35.00-50.00	35-37	36.80		103	34.00-50.00	35-37	37.57	523	36.98	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	555	26.00-29.00	26	26.17		605	24.00-29.00	26	26.17	2,600	26.17	
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,045	28.00-33.00	29-31	30.06		1,045	28.00-32.00	29-31	30.02	5,455	29.88	
WINGS (WHOLE)	295	99.00-107.00	100-102	101.98		295	99.00-107.00	100-102	101.98	1,475	101.98	
WINGS (CUT)	468	110.00-119.00	110-115	113.70		388	110.00-119.00	110-115	113.23	2,119	113.54	
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT					TOO FEW TO REPORT					68	53.97
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT					TOO FEW TO REPORT					122	51.28
B/S THIGHS	87	77.00-100.00	-	87.87		TOO FEW TO REPORT					499	88.37

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS												
TRADING FOR DECEMBER 18, 2003 F.O.B. DOCK.												

RANGE**TODAY'S AVERAGE****RANGE****TODAY'S AVERAGE****5-DAY AVERAGE**

50.15 - 55.50

52.25

50.00 - 55.50

53.90

52.52

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS - Trucklot buying activity increased slightly but was generally fair to moderate at best entering the weekend. Offerings of bone-in breasts were available at discounted levels and boneless-skinless breasts were at least sufficient. Dark meat cuts were adequate and wings were clearing well. Retail and distributive interest was limited as the seasonal holiday items entered the market. The market tone was barely steady on bone-in breasts, cautiously steady on boneless-skinless breasts and about steady on the balance.

ICE PACKED B/F PARTS, DLVRD TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB. Dec 19

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	CURRENT NEG			WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	WEEKLY	
	TRADING*					TRADING*					WTD AVG	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	145			147.51	476,770	145			147.08	613,720	147.55	2,950,404
TENDERLOINS	145			140.82	130,070	145			144.64	159,490	143.55	742,500
BREAST - WITH RIBS	76-77			83.67	153,800	76-77			83.62	266,480	84.28	880,240
BREAST - LINE RUN	76			75.76	127,760	76			76.85	118,880	75.67	647,640
LEGS	38-39			37.18	295,800	38-39			37.48	491,479	37.48	1,926,516
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	29-30			30.17	355,433	29-30			29.60	524,087	29.72	2,020,904
DRUMSTICKS	36-37			43.73	52,020	36-37			37.42	136,540	38.74	628,240
THIGHS	35-36			41.52	46,180	35-36			40.47	110,010	40.78	332,590
B/S THIGHS	85-86			87.91	45,040	85-86			90.46	83,680	87.83	429,450
WINGS (WHOLE)	93-94			98.00	146,350	93-94			99.09	173,640	99.13	719,860
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12			12.11	39,280	10-12			12.13	32,760	11.97	193,600
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40			37.74	10,640	35-40			38.23	13,720	34.99	89,445
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65			66.11	16,600	60-65			69.56	30,560	68.61	119,108

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPE, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

										SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED		
										POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS		
	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WT		ACTUAL	AVG WTS		RANGE		
	12/19	12/18	12/17	12/16	12/17	12/16	12/12	12/10				
ALA	4,340	3,868	3,676	3,865	5.30	5.30	4,248	5.18	FRESH FRYERS	91-97		
ARK	5,458	5,274	5,199	5,165	5.07	5.16	5,081	5.08	ROASTERS 4# & UP	81-95		
DELMARVA	2,007	2,180	1,679	2,146	5.59	5.52	2,088	5.46	HENS UNDER 5#			
KY-LA-TN	1,773	2,017	1,980	1,983	4.94	4.98	1,948	4.92	HENS OVER 5#	60-63		
MISS	2,634	3,065	2,710	2,772	5.11	5.43	2,513	5.30	DUCKS			
NC	2,701	2,428	2,236	2,407	6.32	6.39	2,376	6.35	RABBITS-WHOLE			
TEXAS	4,318	2,492	1,943	2,501	4.68	4.96	2,471	4.91	RABBITS-CUT UP			
TOTAL	23,231	21,324	19,423	20,839	5.26	5.36	20,725	5.28	SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY			
MON-FRI	106,519(A)						105,219(A)		DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 19-Dec-03 and 20-Dec-03 is estimated to be 34,756,000 up 11.76 percent from a week ago and up 17.2 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,100,000; last year 29,656,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the week ending 20-Dec-03 is estimated to be 154,380,000 up 1 percent from a week ago, and up 1 from a year ago (Last week 153,501,000 Last year 152,854,000)

		<u>RANGE</u>
FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	101-103
	ICE PACK	99-100
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK	89-105
	ICE PACK	105
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	91
	DRY PACK	89
DUCKS		152-175

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 06-Dec-03 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning
Food service
4.20 Lbs & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs 5.26 Lbs & Up

	THOUSANDS		
Head	22,550	30,305	43,864
Avg Weight	3.78	4.77	6.21
% of total /1	23%	31%	45%

COMPARISONS

Last week	17,845	17,766	35,324
Avg Weight	3.71	4.69	6.38
% of total /1	25%	25%	50%
Same week, yr ago /2	22,187	19,492	39,713
Avg Weight	3.81	4.71	6.14
% of total /1	27%	24%	49%

To date/2003	1,140,809	1,180,149	2,174,861
To date/2002	1,251,483	1,099,555	2,016,239

/1May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.
(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.
(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.
(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION W/E 13 -Dec-03 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
HEAD	153,501	1,379	1,292	2,671	453
AVG WT	5.23	3.40	8.05	5.65	6.62
LAST WEEK	154,912	1,399	1,437	2,836	394
SAME WK YR AGO	154,894	1,829	1,342	3,171	461
AVG WT	5.09	3.47	7.95	5.37	6.80
TO-DATE/2003	7,664,771	70,637	69,802	140,439	20,652
TO-DATE/2002	7,725,795	86,691	70,695	157,386	20,817

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 150.2 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 155.4 million head or 5.2 million head more than or 103% of estimated fryers available.

EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY - DATE OF AUCTION: DEC 16, 2003
PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

AI PAPERS REQUIRED FOR ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	RANGE	RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.95 - 1.00	Leghorn Roosters.10 - .25ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.90 - 1.00	Silgies 2.25 - 2.50ea.
Pekin Ducks	3.00 - 3.10ea.	Geese 9-14 LBS .50 - .60
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.35 - .50	Pigeons 1.25 - 2.00
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.50 - .70	White Pigeons 3.50 - 4.00ea.
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.50 - .70	Rabbits 4-6 LBS1.30 - 1.60
Crossbred Roosters		Rabbits 6-9 LBS1.10 - 1.25
4-6 LBS	.60 - .90	Bunnies 1.00 - 3.00ea.
Crossbred Roosters		Guinea Pigs 3.50 - 6.00ea.
7-11 LBS	.60 - .70	Goats 30.00 - 40.00ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.45 - 1.55	
Banty Roosters	3.50 - 4.10ea.	Total Coops Sold 406
Banty Hens	2.00 - 2.75ea.	
Leghorn Hens	.12 - .14	

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 15-DEC-2003

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	140	146
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	124-128	125-130
MOSTLY		

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	72.00-75.50	72.00-74.50
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	65.00-85.50	67.00-75.50

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-69.66
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices remained unchanged. Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Demand was fairly good to good. Schedules full-time. Weights were in the desirable range. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.30-0.45, livers at \$0.75-1.70, and feet at \$0.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 15-DEC-2003

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	107-124	125
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO**ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.**

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
NOVEMBER 8	160.0	154.5	104%	5.04
15	159.0	151.7	105%	5.30
22	153.1	149.1	103%	5.25
29	119.8	149.6	80%	5.35
DECEMBER 6	156.8	150.2	104%	5.45
13	155.4	150.2	103%	5.23
YEAR TO DATE	7758.0	7819.8	99%	
DECEMBER 20		147.8		
27		145.8		

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

	Under Federal Inspection				
	THOUSANDS				
W/E	12/20/03	12/13/03	% CHG	12/21/02	% CHG
Broilers	154,380	153,501*	+01	152,854*	+01
Cattle	634	620	+02	650	-02*
Hogs	2,225	2,147	+04	2,177*	+02

*ACTUAL

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Majority prices were unchanged on both light and heavy canners when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate. Trading was light to fair at best. Available offerings were clearing. Processing schedules for next week were less than normal due to holiday schedules. The undertone was steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS	HEAVY CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	(WITHOUT NECKS)
21-25.5 MAJORITY 23.5-24.5	29-36 MAJORITY 34-35

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS	HEAVY CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	(WITHOUT NECKS)
23-27 MAJORITY 26	31.5-38 MAJORITY 35.5-37.5

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Values were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Offerings of spent fowl were about adequate for processing schedules that were less than normal due to holiday schedules. Demand was mostly moderate. Opinions on removal cost were generally steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	0-12	10-11

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Values for disposal of leghorn fowl were too few to report. Supplies of raw material were fully adequate for reduced requirements next week. Finished sales were fair. Costs of conveyance for next week were expected to remain constant.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices were unchanged to higher. Offerings were adequate to instances tight as some users of spent fowl struggled to obtain enough birds to fulfill their needs. Demand was fairly good. Opinions of value were steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	6-12.5	10-12.25

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plants schedules light to moderate. Offerings adequate.

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS, POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Mike Sheats
	Fax	(202)720-2403	(Chief)
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman
	Fax	(404)562-5875	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(404)562-5856	
Jackson, MS	Voice	(601)965-4662	Gary Brown
	Fax	(601)965-4661	(Southern States Area Supervisor)
Des Moines, IA	Voice	(515)284-4471	Mary L. Adkins
	Fax	(515)284-4468	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(515)284-4545	
Los Angeles, CA	Voice	(213)534-1330	Jim Derby
	Fax	(213)534-1333	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(213)534-1335	

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 22-DEC-03

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was moderate for the generally about adequate to adequate offerings. Processing schedules were reduced next week due to holiday schedules. Supplies of finished product were clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was steady.

RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT

SOUTH CENTRAL LIVE HEAVY-TYPE HENS Trading was too few to report. Demand was light for fully adequate offerings. Finished sales were seasonally active. Schedules were reduced. Trade sentiment was generally steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

MISC. POULTRY: Seasonal/Weekly NEW YORK SEASONAL HOLIDAY ITEMS. FOR DELIVERY THE WEEK OF December 15, 2003.

CAPONS:

Supplies of USDA Grade A frozen capons were in close balance to tight. Production has been completed and shipments for the December holidays are in progress. Prices to first receivers were unchanged. Weights were in a full range. Trade sentiment was fully steady.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:
6-9 LBS. 1.55-1.75 MOSTLY 1.60-1.70

GEESE:

Prices were unchanged. Supplies of frozen USDA Grade A geese were in good balance. Last of the regular orders are being delivered. Trade sentiment was fully steady.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:
8-16 LBS. 2.25-2.35

PRICES REPORTED FROM LATE OCTOBER THRU MID DECEMBER

****THIS WILL BE THE LAST HOLIDAY ITEMS REPORT FOR THIS YEAR****